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RUNNING THE HEATING PLANT ECONOMICALLY

When the house has been made as weather-tight as possible and perhaps insulated for still greater warmth, the next job is to run the heating plant efficiently.

No matter what kind of heating system is used, if the fuel consumed leaves ashes, these should never be allowed to pile up close to the grates. Unless air circulates freely under it, the grate will overheat and warp, often becoming difficult to operate and wasteful of fuel.

(Note to editor: Use following paragraph only if anthracite coal is commonly used in your State.)

Stove and nut anthracite are ideal fuels for heating a home, but cost the most. If using stove or large anthracite, carry a deep bed of fuel, at least level with the fire doors. Stop shaking down ashes when the first red coals appear. Spread fresh fuel evenly over the entire grate area. A heavy firing, 6 to 8 inches deep, will last from 6 to 8 hours. For quick heating, the fire bed should be made fairly hot before fresh fuel is added, and fuel should be added frequently in thin, even layers. After firing, keep dampers wide open until blue flame appears, then check the draft to keep the fire burning at the desired rate. Gas coke, combined with anthracite pea or buckwheat coal, makes a good fire that burns and keeps well. It requires a special grate to prevent the

coals' dropping through. These smaller sizes also need a deep fire bed, shaken down only until red coals appear. The fire is made up by spreading a thin layer of anthracite over the entire grate area. Next fill the fire pot with coke, burn until blue flame appears, then add another layer of anthracite. After the charge is ignited, check the fire to the desired point. When banking for the night, use less coke and more anthracite. Wood chunks may be combined with anthracite pea or buckwheat coal. They are equal to coke for producing heat, but require more attention. They may be burned alone satisfactorily in furnaces with tight doors.

(Note to editor: Use the following paragraph only if soft coal is commonly used in your State.)

Bituminous or soft coal usually gives best results when a deep fuel bed is maintained. Stir up the fire and get it hot before adding new fuel. Before firing a new charge, push partly burned fuel back to the sides of the firebox, heaping it high. Place fresh fuel in the hole in the hot fuel bed, making it level with the heaped-up burning fuel. Never smother the fire by covering it completely with fine coal. Always see that there is some flame showing. A large charge of soft coal will burn slowly for several hours, giving out moderate heat. If more heat is needed, it can be had by breaking up the partly ignited mass with the poker. A little air should be admitted through the slides in the fire door.

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